320 E. 9th Suite B Winfield, KS 67156 Phone: (620) 221-1430 Fax: (620) 221-0389



115 E. Radio Lane Arkansas City, KS 67005 Phone: (620) 442-3260 Fax: (620) 442-1759

Contact: Thomas Langer Cowley County Public Health Officer Health Department Administrator 620-221-1430 Email: tlanger@cowleycounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 11, 2022

County Wide COVID-19 Update

The health department monitors the health of county residents. The following is an update to inform the community of the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic in Cowley County. This is the last weekly update due to the slowing of transmission and the lessened number of active COVID cases. We will be changing our reporting format to twice monthly and include pandemic data as part of new Public Health Update that will be published for the first time on Friday March 25, 2022.

Respiratory infections in Cowley County continue to effect local residents. Locally new COVID-19 infections remain slowed. COVID has not completely disappeared, it is still active only at a much slower pace. Influenza infections, as expected, have increased but are not as widespread as we see during a normal flu season. All residents are encouraged to continue to take precautions to avoid the contraction and spread of any illness.

LOCAL SCHOOLS:

Local schools will be on Spring Break next week. Please take care if you travel. Students that develop symptoms of illness should closely follow school district policies for attendance. Contact your school RN if you have questions about COVID testing for students or other illnesses.

COVID-19 TESTING:

Testing requests have declined county wide. Many people have tested connected to travel plans. The Health Department continues to offer testing on a daily basis by appointment. If you develop symptoms of illness or need a test please contact the Winfield Office and staff will help you, and get you scheduled.

COWLEY COUNTY ILLNESS REPORT BY THE NUMBERS:

The positivity rate for the last seven days remains at less than 1%.

As of March 10, 2022, ten thousand seventy-eight (10,078) COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Cowley County since the start of the pandemic. Since March 1, 2022, thirty-six(36) new cases have been reported. No new deaths have been reported in the County. Overall,

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one hundred fifty (150) Cowley County residents have died from complications related to COVID-19 since March of 2020.

Month to month new case information is presented numerically in the tables below:

New Cases		· = month to date.
Month	2021	2022
January	828	2675
February	304	321
March	90	36*
April	47	
May	59	
June	28	
July	153	
August	488	
September	592	
October	386	
November	606	
December	653	
TOTAL	4159	3032

Year Total	2021	2022
Total Cases	4159	3032
% Of cases	100%	73%

This chart compares the previous year, 2021 with the current year to date.

Cowley County is currently identified as an area where COVID-19 infection remains ongoing.

If you do become ill, please do not participate in any group events until after you have fully recovered from your illness. For as long as the pandemic persists Cowley County residents are advised to take all necessary precautions to prevent the contraction and spread of ANY illness.

- Stay home if you feel ill.
- If you develop symptoms of illness, be tested to determine if you are infected.
- Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer.
- Clean high touch surfaces with disinfecting cleaners (doors, counters etc.).
- Wear a mask that properly covers your nose and mouth while in public.
- When ill stay home and isolate from others so you will not spread illness.

Don't forget the next pandemic update will be published Friday, March 25, 2022 as part of a twice monthly Public Health Update.

Enjoy your Spring Break!

Please Stay well!